

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /088 W
-----019006 261857Z /70

R 261727Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9660
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17655

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UK, IZ, KU
SUBJECT: BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE'S VISIT TO IRAQ AND
KUWAIT

REF: LONDON 16238

1. LUCAS, HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPT, BRIEFED EMBOFF
OCT. 24 ON VISIT TO IRAQ AND KUWAIT BY FCO MINISTER OF
STATE JUDD. LUCAS HAD ACCOMPANIED JUDD ON THE VISIT,
WHICH STARTED IN IRAQ OCTOBER 10-11. THEY WERE TREATED
VERY WELL BY THE IRAQIS, PARTICULARLY BY ACTING FOREIGN
SECRETARY HAMID ALWAN AL-JIBBURI. LATTER HAD SEVERAL
LONG TALKS WITH JUDD, INCLUDING A DISCUSSION ON BAATHI
SOCIALISM, AND CAME TO THE BRITISH EXHIBITION DAY AT THE
INTERNATIONAL FAIR. HE AND JUDD ESTABLISHED A DEGREE
OF PERSONAL RAPPORT.

2. JUDD AND ALWAN HELD A FRANK DISCUSSION ON THE ARAB-
ISRAELI ISSUE. JUDD POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH
TIME, SINCE THE AMERICANS WILL SOON BE FACING CONGRESS-
IONAL ELECTIONS AGAIN. JUDD SUGGESTED THAT THE ARABS
TAKE THE INITIATIVE BY OFFERING ISRAEL A SECURITY

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GUARANTEE, AND THUS TRANSFORM THE NATURE OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. JUDD NOTED THAT MOST ARAB
LEADERS ARE COURAGEOUSLY LEADING PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR
COUNTRIES, BUT IF THEY CAN NOT DELIVER THE GOODS, IT
WILL BECOME DIFFICULT FOR THEM. ALWAN IN REPLY RE-
FERRED TO "INJUSTICES THAT HAD OCCURRED." WHILE NOT
ACCEPTING THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW, HE DID UNDERSTAND

IT.

3. TURNING TO THE KURDISH ISSUE, JUDD ASSURED HIS HOST THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF KURDISH OR PRO-KURDISH ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GOI BEING INSTIGATED OR SUPPORTED BY HMG. HOWEVER, THE BRITISH HAVE A FREE SOCIETY, FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THOSE IN BRITAIN WHO ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE KURDS WILL HAVE THEIR SAY. IT WAS AGREED THAT THOSE IN BRITAIN WHO ARE SO CONCERNED SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME TO IRAQ TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE SITUATION OF THE KURDS.

4. ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAQ IN GENERAL, JUDD WAS CANDID. HE CONTRASTED THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOI TO USE ITS OIL REVENUES FOR THE BENEFIT OF POOR IRAQI PEASANTS WITH THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT REGIME HAS RETAINED SOME OF THE WORST METHODS OF THE "BAD OLD" REGIMES OF THE PAST IN DEALING WITH ITS OWN PEOPLE. LUCAS SAID ALWAN TOOK THIS IN.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF VISAS FOR IRAQIS, LUCAS SAID THE UK HAS STREAMLINED ITS VISA ISSUING PROCEDURES SO THAT A GREAT MANY IRAQIS CAN GET QUICKER VISAS. HOWEVER, THIS SIMPLY INTENSIFIES THE FOCUS OF THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE SMALL MINORITY OF IRAQI APPLICANTS WHO DO ENCOUNTER DELAYS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE IRAQI MINIS-
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TER OF TRADE WHO HAD BEEN DENIED A BRITISH VISA.

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6. JUDD AND LUCAS PROCEEDED ON OCTOBER 12 TO KUWAIT WHERE JUDD HAD AN HOUR WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED MOSTLY TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. JABER AL-AHMAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPOSED SOLUTION, SAYING IT MAY WELL COME TO PASS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO BE TOLD HOW TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, AND WILL HAVE TO AGREE, PLEADING FORCE MAJEURE. HOWEVER, JABER AL-AHMAD ADDED, THERE WOULD BE A DECIDED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN IMPOSED SETTLEMENT AND A JUST SETTLEMENT.

7. WITH REGARD TO GULF SECURITY, THE KUWAITIS TOLD THE BRITISH THEY DO NOT WANT ANY PACTS; IF THERE IS NO GOOD-WILL TO BEGIN WITH, PACTS ARE USELESS. LUCAS SAID THE IRAQIS, WHO ORIGINALLY ADVOCATED A GENERAL GULF PACT ON THE ARGUMENT THAT THAT WOULD BE THE WAY TO KEEP THE SUPER-POWERS OUT OF THE GULF, NOW ARGUE THAT A GULF MILITARY ALLIANCE WOULD BRING THE SUPER-POWERS IN, AND THEREFORE THE IRAQIS NOW SAY THEY PREFER BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. IN THE CASE OF THE IRAQ-KUWAIT BORDER,
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THE TENSION HAS BEEN DE-FUSED, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL NO AGREED DEMARCATION.

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